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Message Text

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71
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /080 W
---------- 092127
R 111154Z MAR 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1236
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 115

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: SAMMY SMYTH: OBITUARY

REF: BELFAST 113

1. SAMMY SMYTH A FOUNDER OF PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) WAS SHOT SEVERAL TIMES AND KILLED BY TWO YOUNG MEN WHO BURST INTO THE HOUSE OF SMUTH'S SISTER IN NORTH BELFAST EVENING MARCH 10. AT TIME OF DEATH "WE SAMMY" WAS NO LONGER MEMBER INNER COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATION BUT WAS STILL OCCASIONALLY ACTING AS UDA SPOKESMAN. AT OTHER TIMES HE SPOKE AS SECRETARY LOWER SHANKILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND AT TIMES ONLY FOR HIMSELF. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE FOR WHOM HE WAS SPEAKING AT GIVEN TIME. HE WAS MOST ACTIVE IN RECENT MONTHS IN ATTEMPT ORGANIZE A "COMMUNITY CONVENTION" OF COMMUNITY GROUPS, INTEREST GROUPS AND TRADE UNIONS TO DEVISE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION THAT COULD BRING PEACE TO NORTHERN IRELAND. HE HAD CROSS-COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THIS EFFORT BUT POSED DIFFICULTIES FOR HIS CATHOLIC COUNTERPARTS IN COMMUNITY WORK BY THE EXTREMITY OF SOME OF HIS STATEMENTS. HE WAS INTOLERANT OF POLITICIANS, AND CONSISTENTLY STRESSED
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THEME THAT IF CIVIL WAR CAME IT WOULD BE FOUGHT AND SUFFERED

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BY WORKING CLASS BOTH TRADITIONS. OCCASIONALLY ERRATIC, SMTTH WAS AUTHENTIC VOICE ULSTER PROTESTANT WORKING CLASS. TELEPHONE CALL OSTENSIBLY FROM ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO LOCAL BBC CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHOOTING BUT UDA SUSPECTS PROVISIONAL IRA. UDA ARMY COUNCIL TO MEET BELFAST TODAY TO DISCUSS KILLING.

2. ONE MAN KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED IN SHOOTING ATTACK ON PROTESTANT-OWNED PUB NEAR LISBURN MARCH 10. ATTACK IS BELIEVED TO BE REPRISAL FOR KILLING TWO CATHOLICS AT NEARBY RESTRAURANT DAY BEFORE (REFTEL). YOUNG MAN AND GIRL WOUNDED BY SHOTGUN FIRED FROM PASSING CAR ON SHANKILL EVENING AUGUST 10. GUNMEN FIRED EIGHT SHOTS AT ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARLY PATROL IN AMBUSH ANDERSONSTOWN NIGHT AMARCH 10-11. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

3. PROVISIONAL IRA MOUNTING NEW PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE AGAINST BRITISH ARMY. IN ONE RECENT STATEMENT THEY HAVE ACCUSED ARMY OF HARASSING PREGNANT WOMEN, DESTRUCTIVE HOUSE SEARCHES AND DRAGGING YOUNG GIRLS FROM THEIR BEDS. IN ANOTHER THEY HAVE ACCUSED ARMY OF MINIMIZING EXPLOSIVES FINDS AND DIVERTING SOME OF THE EXPLOSIVES FOR USE IN "NO-WARNING" (PROTESTANT) BOMBS. PROPOGANDA OFFENSIVE USUALLY PRECEDES AND JUSTIFIES UPSURGE PROVISIONAL VIOLENCE.SPICER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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